

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 3:30 p.m. on March 18, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except – Representatives Hineman, Light and Svaty.

Committee staff present:

Mike Corrigan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Pat Matzek, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Mike Brown, Chairman, Wheat Commission  
Pat Ross, Secretary Treasurer, Corn Commission  
Ron Ohlde, Chairman, Soybean Commission  
Jeff Casten, Chairman, Grain Sorghum Commission  
Erik Wisner, Policy and Program Analyst, Department of the Agriculture

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Powell commenced the meeting with introduction of Intern Jarah Casten.

Mike Brown, Chairman, Wheat Commission, (Attachment 1) stated the Kansas Wheat Commission was established by the Kansas legislature in 1957 to represent the states' wheat producers in the areas of research, domestic marketing, international marketing, education and communication. One of the Wheat Commission's key projects over the past year is the application for a \$35 million startup grant from the Kansas BioScience Authority for the Plant Innovation Center. Mr. Brown also distributed a copy of the Kansas Wheat Commission's annual report and audit information on file at its office or accessible at [www.KansasWheat.org](http://www.KansasWheat.org).

Pat Ross, Secretary Treasurer, Corn Commission, (Attachment 2) spoke on behalf of the Kansas Corn Commission, advising that while its 2008 corn production was down slightly from its record-breaking crop of 2007, Kansas growers produced the second largest crop in the state's history harvesting 486 million bushels. Mr. Ross further commented the Kansas Corn Commission works to increase the profitability of growing corn by funding programs it believes will build demand for corn and for products made with corn. Copies of the Kansas Corn Commission's annual report and audit information are available online at [www.ksgrains.com](http://www.ksgrains.com).

Ron Ohlde, Chairman, Soybean Commission, (Attachment 3) documented the Soybean Commission is part of a federal checkoff program and has been designated as the Qualified State Soybean Board for the state of Kansas by the United States Soybean Board, the national checkoff board authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture under federal legislation approved by Congress. Mr. Ohlde also reported the number one funding priority of the Soybean Commission is research, primarily production research. They look at breeding, production, and environmental programs that focus on the most economical and efficient cropping systems with minimal impact on the environment, including best management practices, crop protection and pest management. Copies of the Kansas Soybean Commission's annual report and audit information are available online at [www.kansassoybeans.org](http://www.kansassoybeans.org).

Jeff Casten, Chairman, Grain Sorghum Commission, (Attachment 4) presented documentation on the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, stating the thirteen person board of the new United Sorghum checkoff Program (USCP) includes three members of the Kansas grain Sorghum Commission, of which Mr. Casten is a member. The USCP is a new producer self-help organization that will energize the sorghum industry and provide new research, promotion and information opportunities for the crop. The Board will efficiently invest sorghum producers' checkoff dollars to increase sorghum profitability and bolster an industry that has lagged in research efforts during the past 20 years. Copies of the Kansas Soybean Commission's annual report and audit information are available online at [www.ksgrainsorghum.org](http://www.ksgrainsorghum.org).

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 p.m. on March 18, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

**Hearing on:**

**SB 204 - Secretary of agriculture, disposition of food safety and lodging moneys, food safety and lodging fee fund.**

Erik Wisner, Policy and Program Analyst, Department of Agriculture, (Attachment 5) presented testimony in favor of **SB 204**, stating the bill makes several changes to the disposition of fees in the Division of Food Safety and Lodging. Mr. Wisner documented there are two statutes and a budget proviso that reference the disposition of fees paid by food service establishments. The proposed amendments would eliminate the proviso and one of the statutes and place all fees collected from food service and lodging establishments into one fund, direct all lodging fees to be credited to the program's fee fund, and directs all penalty money received by the program to be deposited in the state general fund.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

# AG. & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 8-18-09

NAME	REPRESENTING
Mike Brown	Kansas Wheat Commission
Sue Schulte	Kansas Corn
Pat Ross	Kansas Corn Commission
Xenlon Johannes	Kansas Soybean Commission
Ronald Ohlde	Kansas Soybean Commission
Jeff Carter	Ks. Grain Sorghum Commission
Dustin Jett	KWC
Dane Putman	Ks Wheat
Berend Koops	Hein Law Firm
Erik Wisner	KDA
JJ Jones	Commerce
Brian Harrison	KFB
Leslie Kaufman	Ks Coop Council
Steve Morris	KDA
Mary Jane Sandeen	KGFA



*Leaders in the adoption of profitable innovations for wheat*

**Kansas Wheat Commission Annual Report  
Presented to House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Wednesday, March 18, 2009  
By Mike Brown, Chairman of the Kansas Wheat Commission**

Chairman Powell and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide you an annual report from the Kansas Wheat Commission. My name is Mike Brown, a wheat producer from Colby, KS and Chairman of the Commission.

The Kansas Wheat Commission was established by the Kansas legislature in 1957 to represent the states' wheat producers in the areas of research, domestic marketing, international marketing, and education and communication. More than 50 years later, these areas of work are still needed to enhance our industry. Today, I would like to highlight a few of the Commission's key projects over the past year.

Farmers contribute to the Kansas Wheat Commission through the new 15 mill-per-bushel, or one-and-one-half pennies per bushel, assessment. An increase in the assessment authority to 20 mills – or two-pennies-per-bushel - was approved by the Kansas legislature in 2008. In August, the Kansas Wheat Commission voted to increase the assessment from one-penny-per-bushel to one-and-one-half pennies per bushel, effective Jan. 1, 2009. This was the first change in the wheat assessment since 1996.

The Kansas Wheat Commission embarked on a number of activities in order to get producer input into this decision. We conducted a public comment period for six weeks prior to ratifying the assessment change and promoted this period through radio advertising, agriculture news publications and press releases. Fewer than a dozen letters of support or concern were received, confirming our long-held belief that farmers perceive the wheat assessment as a good investment. In addition, we attended various industry meetings, extension field days, pre-plant wheat school and spent time talking to producers about this change

In an average crop year, the wheat assessment will add \$1.5 million to the Kansas Wheat Commission budget. Our contact with farmers reaffirmed that their number one priority for this investment is research. Plans are already underway to increase our funding of worthy wheat research. Our research committee has spent the past few months evaluating proposals and stands ready to recommend just over \$1 million for this top producer priority. This is a 25 percent increase over our current budget.

Furthermore, Kansas Wheat has partnered with Kansas State University and the University of Kansas to develop plans for the Kansas Innovation Center for Advanced Plant Design: "Plants for the Heartland." The Center will focus on emerging commercial opportunities for wheat, sorghum, small grains and native plants and grasses.

Kansas Wheat has applied for a \$35 million startup grant from the Kansas BioScience Authority for the Plant Innovation Center. Funds will be used to build a state-of-the-art research facility near the K-State campus in Manhattan. Numerous public and private collaborators have agreed to invest in, or contribute in-kind technology to support this one-of-a-kind endeavor, through which commercialization of sustainable, drought-tolerant and high-yielding varieties of crops may be developed, along with food products that reduce allergenicity, are rich in antioxidants and contain other health components.

**KANSAS WHEAT Commission**

217 Southwind Place / Manhattan, KS 66503 / 785.539.0255 / Fax 785.539.8946 / [www.KansasWheat.org](http://www.KansasWheat.org)

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Attachment 1

The Plant Innovation Center has generated a great deal of grassroots support in Kansas and from major agribusinesses throughout the United States. We believe that the Plant Innovation Center will help solidify Kansas' reputation as that nation's leader in bioscience research.

Another mission of the Kansas Wheat Commission is to participate in consumer education programs. The Kansas Wheat Commission donated significant manpower and monetary resources to a Wheat Foods Council effort called the Urban Wheat Field, held in the Financial District of New York City in October. The Wheat Foods Council – of which Kansas Wheat is a member - is the only national organization that represents the entire wheat industry – producers, millers, manufacturers, bakers and nutrition educators.

In a nutshell, the Urban Wheat Field was an ambitious, interactive exhibit through which thousands of urban consumers learned how wheat is grown, processed and packaged into nutritious food. Consumers paraded through a quarter-acre interactive display of green, growing wheat, growing in pallets, illustrating the crop's progress from early emergence to just before harvest. They proceeded to a milling and baking session – complete with fresh-baked bread and cookies – before exiting the Urban Wheat Field with a handful of samples, recipes and nutrition information.

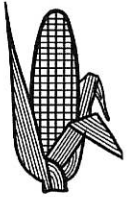
The Urban Wheat Field is a success story we hope to replicate with another initiative in June, called the National Festival of Breads. This first-of-its kind contest is a progression from the Festival of Breads, a bread-baking contest that got its start in Kansas 20 years ago. The National Festival of Breads will gather eight finalists from four categories in Wichita this June. We expect that regional and national media will eagerly participate in covering the contest, and have planned a number of activities to teach contestants, guests and media members alike about wheat production. Among these activities is a Harvest Tour, featuring lunch on a farm during wheat harvest, plus stops at a grain elevator and flour mill. In keeping with the Festival theme, we will have a day set-aside for the general public to come to the contest, participate in free baking sessions and learn about wheat production and wheat foods. We have secured many major sponsors for this event, the first of its kind in the U.S.

We also plan on taking the Farm-to-Fork message a step further with a new exhibit at the Kansas State Fair this September. This effort will combine all wheat-related activities in one location, giving the more than 300,000 visitors to the State Fair an interactive experience they will never forget.

There are many other initiatives the Kansas Wheat Commission is undertaking. We continue to partner with Kansas State University for what varietal development and to sequence the wheat genome. We are working to educate and inform the world's wheat buyers about the potential benefits of biotechnology adaptation in wheat. In order to foster business relationships with wheat importers from around the globe, we host numerous Trade Teams from other countries so that they might see the value of Kansas-grown winter wheat. More than half the wheat grown in Kansas is exported to other nations.

More than 50 years after the Kansas Wheat Commission was established by the Legislature, our goals remain the same: to work diligently on behalf of wheat farmers in the areas of research, domestic and international market development, communication and education.

This concludes my report. Thank you once again for this opportunity to visit with you today, and I'd be glad to answer any questions the committee may have.



## Kansas Corn Commission

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### Comments from Pat Ross, Treasurer, Kansas Corn Commission Kansas Corn Commission Annual Report to the Legislature March 2009

My name is Pat Ross. I have a farm and livestock operation near Lawrence and I represent east-central Kansas on the Kansas Corn Commission. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today and present the corn commission's annual legislative report.

Attached with my comments today, we have also provided you with copies of the commission's Fiscal Year 2008 financial audit, the FY 2007 Year-End Budget Report, the FY2008 Budget, and the 2008 annual report to producers which was distributed through Kansas Farmer magazine as well as at grower meetings and farm shows. This report includes a description of current projects in the areas of Production/New Use Research, Domestic Market Development, Foreign Market Development, and Promotion and Education. Also included is a new Corn Fact Book.

While our 2008 corn production was down slightly from our record-breaking crop of 2007, Kansas growers produced the second largest crop in the state's history harvesting 486 million bushels. The corn checkoff rate remains at a half-cent per bushel. The corn checkoff is refundable, and we honor refund requests in a prompt and courteous manner. Refund requests are typically processed and checks mailed within 2-3 working days of receipt at our office, with any rarely taking longer than five working days to complete. The FY08 checkoff refund percentage was 13.35 percent, down from 16.28 percent in FY07.

The Kansas Corn Commission works to increase the profitability of growing corn. We fund programs that we believe will build demand for corn and for products made with corn. We also fund research projects to improve our crop and production techniques and we fund educational efforts to help people understand the role of corn and agriculture in their lives. In today's society, it is increasingly important that agriculture tells its story and helps people understand where their food and fuel come from. That is why we have become involved with the Corn Farmers Coalition, a group of state grower organizations that are focusing on presenting accurate information about corn. I have included in our packet a copy of the Corn Fact Book, which is part of a larger educational campaign that can be found at [corngrowerscoalition.org](http://corngrowerscoalition.org).

The livestock industry remains the largest market for corn, and the Kansas Corn Commission continues to fund programs to benefit our #1 customer. Exports remain an important market for corn and value-added corn products like Kansas Beef. The commission funds cooperators like the U.S. Grains Council and the U.S. Meat Export Federation to gain broader access to international markets. These groups are able to use Federal matching funds, giving the dollars of Kansas growers even more power.

We also continue to work to build demand for ethanol, another leading value-added product made from corn. Working with the ethanol promotion group Growth Energy, the commission initiated a statewide effort to add ethanol blender pumps that offer mid-grade blends of ethanol. The Kansas Department of Agriculture has played a vital role in establishing guidelines to allow retailers to use these new blender

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Attachment 2

pumps. We are also working with the Renewable Fuels Association on an innovative effort to raise awareness of renewable fuels with college age students. Just two weeks ago, this national program was kicked off at the Manhattan Farmers Coop. More than 200 KSU students participated in this event. Our website at ksgrains.com has more information on this and other commission activities. I would also like to mention that the commission's annual report, FY-08 budget and FY-07 year-end report can be viewed by anyone who visits our web site.

2008 was a wild ride for all of us in agriculture. Farmers experienced for a short time the thrill of record commodity prices, tempered by record prices for inputs like fertilizer and fuel. Then we saw a sharp downturn in prices as our country went into an economic slump. 2008 illustrates why the consistent work of groups like the Kansas Corn Commission is so important. We will continue our work to maintain strong domestic and foreign markets, and we will continue to work to help our growers and our customers through research, promotion and education. The Kansas Corn Commission continues to work to benefit Kansas corn producers and we look forward to continuing these efforts in the years to come. Thank you for your interest in agriculture and in the activities of the Kansas Corn Commission.

**Kansas Soybean Commission**  
**March 18, 2009**  
**Report to the Kansas Legislature**

Chairman Powell and members of the Kansas House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, my name is Ron Ohlde from Palmer; I am the Chairman of the Kansas Soybean Commission.

The Soybean Commission is part of a federal checkoff program. The Kansas Soybean Commission has been designated as the Qualified State Soybean Board for the state of Kansas by the United Soybean Board (USB), the national checkoff board authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture under federal legislation approved by Congress. The Soybean Commission collects one-half of one percent of the net value of a soybean sale of a producer collected by the first purchasers in the state of Kansas. We then send one-half of the funds we collect to the USB for national and international projects. Nine soybean farmers volunteer their time to serve on the Soybean Commission.

The materials we included in the handouts provide some detail on the programs and projects we are funding in FY2009.

The number one funding priority of the Soybean Commission is research, primarily production research. We look at breeding, production, and environmental programs that focus on the most economical and efficient cropping systems with minimal impact on the environment, including best management practices, crop protection and pest management.

Our research program also funds a limited amount of new uses research. Developing environmentally friendly products from soybean derivatives helps our farmers and the environment.

Our state's international market development effort, separate from USB's extensive program, is done through the International Grains Program (IGP) at Kansas State University. Projects such as promoting Kansas-grown soybeans overseas or hosting trade teams to expand the foreign markets for value-added products, including a special program done at IGP with the World Initiative on Soy in Human Health in Mozambique, are within this program area. We also have been working with the Kansas Department of Commerce, Ag Marketing Division to sell containerized Kansas soybeans to a food and feed manufacturing company in our state's sister state, Henan Province in China.

Our consumer education program includes promoting the acceptance of new uses for soybeans such as biodiesel, and educating the public on the ease of preparing healthful foods with soy. The consumer information category is also responsible for our school education programs. Since 94% of all soybean meal produced in the US is consumed by animal agriculture we have been working closely with those commodity organizations,

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Attachment 3



especially pork producers, to educate Kansans on the importance of Animal Ag to the Kansas and US economy.

Our producer communication program deals with the dissemination of information to producers and industry. Weekly radio farm reports, newsletters, and attendance at farm shows and district meetings are all included in this category. We strive to get the latest most relevant information to our producers.

Our administration budget includes the cost of collections, audits, elections, and other board expenses. The Soybean Commission has an outside, accredited accounting firm audit its financial records each year. This ensures checkoff dollars are being spent according to acceptable efficient business practices. We are also periodically audited by the USB for compliance to the national checkoff.

We have been aware for some time now that it was time for us to find a different facility to house our staff and office. After an extensive search and looking into several options we felt it would be best to start from the ground up. A rendering of our new office building scheduled for completion at the end of this calendar year is in your packet of materials.

As stated earlier, one-half of the soybean checkoff collection goes to the United Soybean Board. This 65 member, farmer run board, allocates our national share along with those of 25 other soybean producing states. The Kansas Soybean Commission has three representatives on USB. USB funds international market development, production and utilization research, consumer information programs, including assisting the National Biodiesel Board in its efforts to commercialize biodiesel, and producer communication projects.

We are pleased to give you this brief synopsis of our program. Additional information and details on programs and specific projects are available at your request.

Thank you.

Ron Ohlde  
Palmer, Kansas

Kansas Soybean Commission Office  
2930 SW Wanamaker Drive  
Topeka, KS 66614-4116  
785-271-1040



# 2009

## Annual Report

### Three Commissioners Serve On Board of Directors For New United Sorghum Checkoff Program

The thirteen-person board of the new United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP) includes three members of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission. Bill Greving (Prairie View, Kan.) will serve as the board's president, Jeff Casten (Quenemo, Kan.) will serve as the secretary and Gary Kilgore (Chanute, Kan.) will serve as a board member.

The USCP is a brand new producer self-help organization that will energize the sorghum industry and provide new research, promotion and information opportunities for the crop. The thirteen producers were appointed to the USCP Board by the Secretary of Agriculture in October of 2008 and their inaugural meeting was held in Washington D.C. in November. The Board will efficiently invest sorghum producers' checkoff dollars to increase sorghum profitability and bolster an industry that has lagged in research efforts during the past 20 years.

"We are thrilled that the national sorghum checkoff now has a producer board to represent the thousands of sorghum growers around that nation that will ultimately benefit from this program," said Toby Bostwick, National Sorghum Producers (NSP) Chairman of the Board from Melrose, N.M.

The concept of a national sorghum checkoff program has been considered and supported by the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission for more than two years. The Commission voted to pursue the implementation of a national checkoff on sorghum to provide the sorghum industry with a critical mass of research funding after the industry experienced several years of decline, partly due to minimal investment in research to improve the crop. During its public comment period in the Federal Register, the Order

received 87 percent positive feedback. The positives of the program were too big to ignore, and now the checkoff provides the resources need to improve the crop.

"Without the checkoff, we just really don't have the resources to do what we need as far as research for sorghum farmers," Board secretary and KGSC member Jeff Casten said. "Farmers need something tangible that they can see as a product of research. With every sorghum farmer in the United States contributing a small amount, together we can do great things."

Along with the research that will be created, Gary Kilgore, board member and KGSC member, believes another important prong to the checkoff program is the market development possibilities.

"We would like to increase exports to Mexico," Kilgore said. "They're not far away, and they can continue to increase their use of sorghum in the Mexican livestock feeding industry."

The numerous things the checkoff now opens up for the sorghum industry are positive, but, board president and KGSC member Bill Greving, knows it's important to keep the focus on the grain sorghum producer.

"Our vision for this checkoff program is to improve the sorghum industry by making it more profitable, increasing acreage, delivering useful products to the producers' fields and providing education for growers," Greving said.

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Attachment 4

# Kansas State University Center for Sorghum Improvement

Grain sorghum is one of the most important dryland crops in the Central Great Plains of the United States. Sorghum is economically important in areas where low and erratic rainfall and high temperature limit the production of other summer crops. The U.S. is the largest producer of grain sorghum in the world with nearly 7 million acres of grain production in 2007.

Despite the national and international importance of this crop for farmers in drought prone environments, many public and private sorghum research positions and programs are being lost to downsizing and corporate consolidation. At least 10 public sorghum research positions have been lost to attrition in the last decade. It is more difficult to assess the loss of private research positions, but the support for private sorghum research programs is clearly much lower than it was even five years ago. Consequently, these programs are becoming more reliant on public research programs to address new or recalcitrant research problems. This ominous trend undermines the economic stability of those farmers that rely on this crop to maintain profitability of their farms. This is particularly significant in light of water shortages for irrigation that are predicted in the near future.

## Center of Excellence for Sorghum Improvement

In light of the importance of grain sorghum for farmers in the United States, Kansas State University established a Center of Excellence for Sorghum Improvement to provide the critical mass of students and scientists needed to maintain and improve this important crop resource. Research programs in four departments that will specifically focus their research efforts on sorghum improvement have been identified. These scientists are dedicated to sorghum and will work as an interdisciplinary team to address the most important sorghum production constraints. The investment of salary and base support by Kansas State University for this center exceeds \$1,000,000 annually. In addition, the Kansas Sorghum Check-off Fund contributes over \$200,000 from farmer grain sales to research in sorghum each year. Hopefully the recent creation of the National Sorghum Check-off Program will bring more research funds to bear on sorghum production and utilization problems.

## Objectives

The original research objectives addressed in this project were identified through discussions with Great Plains sorghum producers and commercial sorghum

breeders. Each research objective addresses a sorghum production problem. Interactions are being developed with researchers in private industry to ensure that results from basic research projects are rapidly incorporated into private sorghum breeding programs. K-State also has an extremely active extension program that will work to educate sorghum producers about the most profitable and cost-effective strategies for sorghum production.

1. Improve the agronomic characteristics, yield potential and feed value of sorghum through plant breeding and genetic improvement. As new uses for sorghum are developed, apply this knowledge to breeding new sorghum hybrids, which will better fit these end-use requirements.
2. Develop new uses for sorghum in food and non-food applications, emphasizing the grain's desirable characteristics such as absence of gluten and low glycemic index, as well as its suitability for use in biofuel production.
3. Identify more efficient sorghum production and management strategies which will enhance water and nutrient use efficiency and provide farmers additional options for the control of weeds and other pests.

## Successes to Date

1. Development and release of ALS and ACCase herbicide resistant parent lines to the seed industry. This will allow chemical control of late emerging weeds, especially grasses which has not been a viable option to sorghum growers before. Technology should be available to growers in 2010.
2. Development and release of "stay green" breeding lines to the seed industry to reduce lodging among sorghum hybrids.
3. Development of active crop sensor nitrogen recommendations to improve N use efficiency. This technology was first available to Kansas growers in 2008.
4. Development of new human food products such as waffle mixes, donut mixes, and other sorghum flour based products.

# Kansas Funded Projects – FY 2009

The Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission allocated check-off funds in the areas of research, foreign market development, domestic market development, promotion, and education.

Below is a listing of projects funded by the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission for FY 2009. July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

## Research Funding

Development and Utilization of Sorghum as a Feedstock for Biofuel Production

KSU-Principal Investigator Donghai Wang  
 ..... \$28,780

Enhancing Sorghum Yield and Profitability through Nitrogen Management

KSU-Principal Investigator David Mengel  
 ..... \$18,000

Improving Drought Tolerance in Sorghum through Association Mapping

KSU-Principal Investigator Jianming Yu  
 ..... \$60,000

Screening Sorghum Germplasm for Drought and Heat Tolerance

KSU-Principal Investigator P.Vara Prasad  
 ..... \$33,000

Evaluation of Strip-Tillage for Grain Sorghum in Kansas

KSU-Principal Investigator Keith Janssen  
 ..... \$6,300

Extension and Applied Research Programs for Kansas Grain Sorghum Production

KSU-Principal Investigator Kraig Roozeboom  
 ..... \$5,400

Improving Understanding of the Mechanisms of Grain Sorghum Drought Tolerance

KSU-Principal Investigator Scott Staggenborg  
 ..... \$6,000

Management Systems for Grain Sorghum Production under Dryland and Limited Irrigation Conditions

KSU-Principal Investigator Barney Gordon  
 ..... \$6,500

Breeding Grain Sorghum for Improved Dryland Production

KSU-Principal Investigator Tesfga Tesso  
 ..... \$69,790

Developing a Real-Time Crop Sensing System to Enhance Tolerance Screening

KSU-Principal Investigator Randy Price  
 ..... \$5,000

Quizalofop (Assure II) Herbicide Registration in Grain Sorghum

KSU-Principal Investigator Kassim Al-Khatib  
 ..... \$184,000

Breeding Sorghum with Higher Yield and Improved Drought & Cold Tolerance

Hays-KSU-Principal Investigator Ken Kofoid  
 ..... \$45,000

National Sorghum Producers Research Funding

..... \$45,000

## TOTAL RESEARCH

..... \$ 512,770

Market Development, Promotion, and Education Funding

US Grains Council  
 ..... \$6,000

National Sorghum Producers  
 ..... \$80,000

Funded Projects

Total  
 ..... \$598,770

ansas State University initiated the Center for Sorghum improvement in 2001. The Center's coordinated interdisciplinary research efforts have led to the development of sorghum germplasm and parent lines with improved stalk quality, grain yield potential and drought tolerance. In 2006, these efforts were expanded to a regional scale with the development of the Great Plains Sorghum Improvement and Utilization Center (GPSIUC). The GPSIUC extends the interdisciplinary concept to include K-State, Texas Tech University, and Texas A&M University, integrating the combined expertise and resources of these three universities. The focus of the center is on genetic improvement, production systems to enhance water and nutrient use, innovative strategies to provide improved weed control, utilization of sorghum in human food products, animal feed, and as a bioenergy and industrial feedstock, plus marketing, and policy analysis in support of the US sorghum industry.

### Relevance

Goals of the new checkoff's increased cash resources will expand existing research and education programs, particularly in genetic improvement and sorghum utilization. Sorghum is one of the most drought tolerant crops in the world, offering many potential advantages as a food, feed and bioenergy crop, and could be a key to

sustaining viable rural economies in the Great Plains. The wide diversity of sorghum types (sweet, forage, silage, grain) offer tremendous potential for many uses, but need to be evaluated and have varieties developed for important food, feed and industrial uses. The absence of gluten in sorghum grain offers huge opportunities for the development of new food products aimed at the population suffering from gluten intolerance. Systems for production, harvesting, transportation, and storage of sorghum products, feedstocks, and co-products have to be developed to meet the needs of the bioenergy industry, while optimizing the use of our natural resources and protecting the environment. Expanded research on genetic improvement, production and usage will result in new technologies and information to increase grain and forage sorghum production and processing efficiencies, reduce costs through the production and processing chain, and improve the U.S. sorghum industry's global competitiveness.

## KANSAS GRAIN SORGHUM COMMISSION

**District 1 NW** Richard Calliham  
Colby  
785-462-2459

**District 2 WC** Greg Graff, Vice-Chair  
Mariantal  
620-379-4677

**District 3 SW** Boyd Funk  
Garden City  
620-521-2463

**District 4 NC** Bill Greving, Sec/Treasurer  
Prairie View  
785-973-2224

**District 5 C** Clayton Short  
Assaria  
785-667-3833

**District 6 SC** Dennis Siefkes  
Hudson  
620-458-5222

**District 7 NE** Kurt Staggenborg  
Marysville  
785-562-3275

**District 8 EC** Jeff Casten, Chairman  
Quenemo  
785-759-3520

**District 9 SE** Gary Kilgore  
Chanute  
620-431-0636

### Administrator

Kevin Lickteig  
PO Box 243  
Paola KS 66071  
Phone: 913-294-4314 e-mail [kgsc@classicnet.net](mailto:kgsc@classicnet.net)  
Website: [www.ksgrainsorghum.org](http://www.ksgrainsorghum.org)

**Testimony on Senate Bill 204  
to  
the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

**by Erik Wisner  
Policy and Program Analyst  
Kansas Department of Agriculture**

**March 18, 2009**

Good afternoon, Chairman Powell and members of the committee. I am Erik Wisner, policy and program analyst with the Kansas Department of Agriculture. I am here in support of Senate Bill 204, which makes several changes to the disposition of fees in the Division of Food Safety and Lodging.

In 2008, the Legislature enacted Senate Bill 584 to transfer all responsibility for the inspection and licensing of food service establishments and lodging facilities from the Department of Health and Environment to the Department of Agriculture. During the first few months handling these new food safety duties, we realized several adjustments needed to be made for more efficient disposition of fees paid to the program.

Currently, there are two statutes and a budget proviso that reference the disposition of fees paid by food service establishments. The proposed amendments would eliminate the proviso and one of the statutes and place all fees collected from food service and lodging establishments into one fund. I have attached to my testimony a diagram that better illustrates this change.

The bill would also direct all lodging fees to be credited to the program's fee fund. In 2008, the lodging program contributed \$59,000 in fees to the state general fund. However, the approved fiscal year 2009 budget transferred \$247,000 from the state general fund to the program for lodging inspections. If this bill passes, we estimate that in fiscal year 2010, \$50,000 less will be paid into the state general fund. However, we also would expect a commensurate reduction in SGF provided to operate the lodging program.

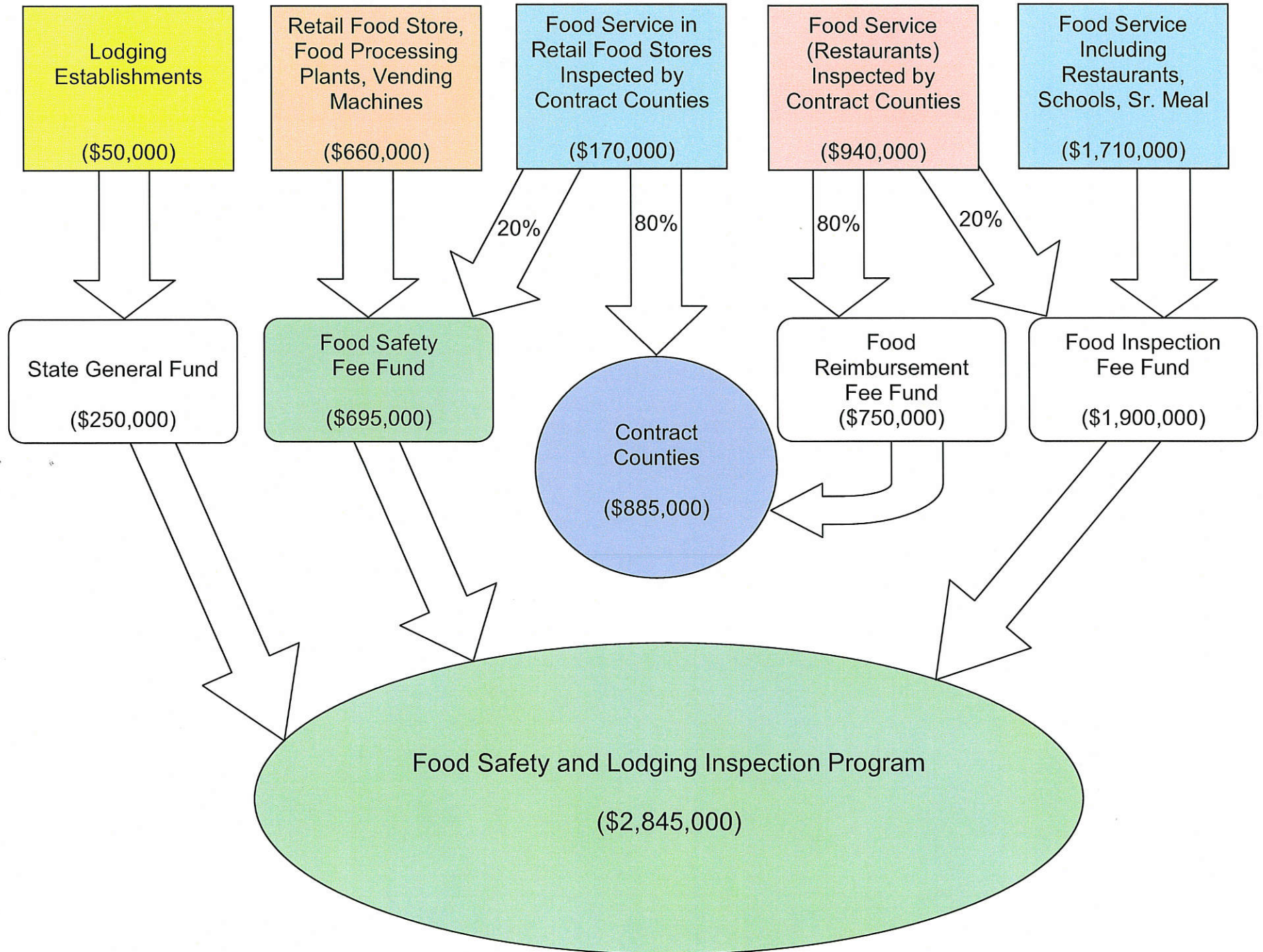
Finally, the bill directs all penalty money received by the program to be deposited in the state general fund. Currently, any money received from penalties against retail food stores and food processing plants are deposited in the program's fee fund. This would change existing law, and based on current projects, it would add a little more than \$10,000 to the state general fund.

We strongly support these changes because it will allow more efficient disposition of fees paid to the program and also allow us to recoup all fees and rely less on the state general fund.

I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

# Division of Food Safety and Lodging—CURRENT Flow Chart for Disposition of Fees and Charges

5-2



# Division of Food Safety and Lodging—PROPOSED Flow Chart for Disposition of Fees and Charges

5-3

